

BRFSS

Fact Sheet

Health Care Access



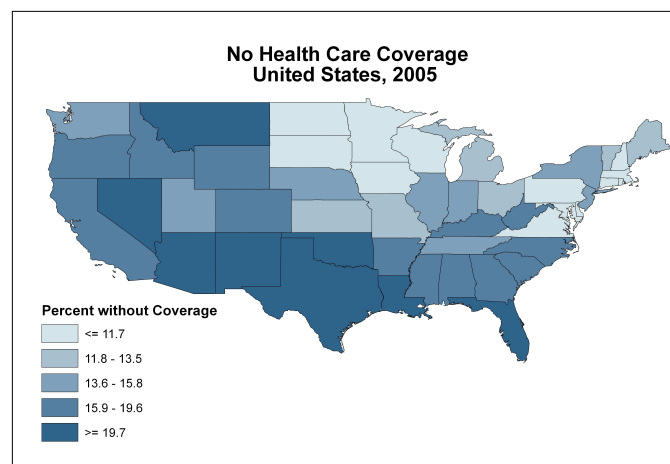
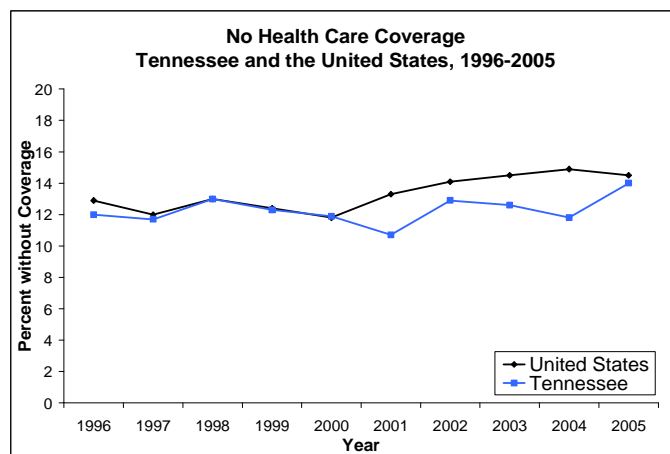
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Access to health care services often depends on whether a person has health insurance.¹ Uninsured people are less likely to have had a recent medical visit.¹ They are more likely to be in poor health and have an increased risk of premature death.¹ One of the Healthy People 2010 objectives is to increase the proportion of persons with health insurance to 100%.¹ Improving access to and utilization of care is important for eliminating health disparities and increasing the quality and years of healthy life for all Tennesseans.

- In 2005, 14.0% of adults in Tennessee were uninsured, compared to 14.5% for the United States.² This was the highest percentage of adults without health care coverage in Tennessee in the past 10 years.
- Among all 50 states, the percentage of uninsured adults ranged from 28.5% in Texas to 7.0% in Minnesota.² Compared to other states, Tennessee had the 28th highest percentage of uninsured adults.
- The percentage of uninsured males (14.8%) was slightly higher than that of females (13.2%).
- Blacks (17.8%) were more likely than whites (12.5%) to be uninsured.
- Young adults aged 18-24 (27.4%) were more likely to be uninsured than older adults. Approximately 14-16% of persons 25-54 years old were uninsured, followed by 10.7% of 55-64 year olds, and 3.5% of those 65 years and older.



References:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Healthy People 2010: Understanding and Improving Health*. 2nd ed. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, November 2000.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov/brfss) U.S. data includes DC and territories.

Prepared by the Tennessee Department of Health; Office of Policy, Planning and Assessment; Surveillance, Epidemiology and Evaluation section based on 2005 TN Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System data.

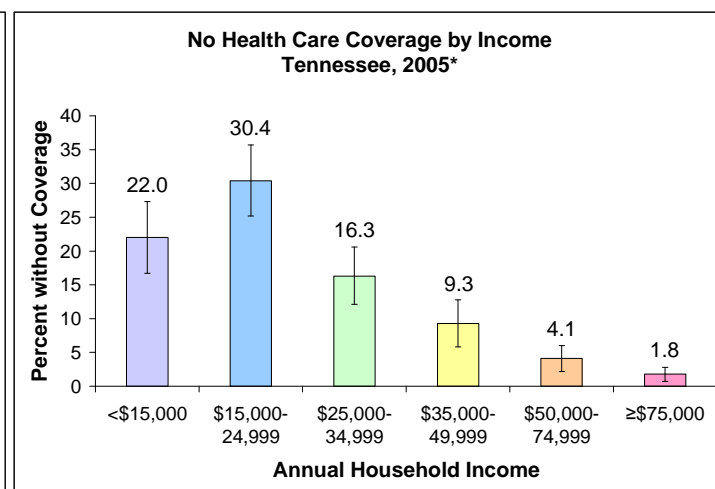
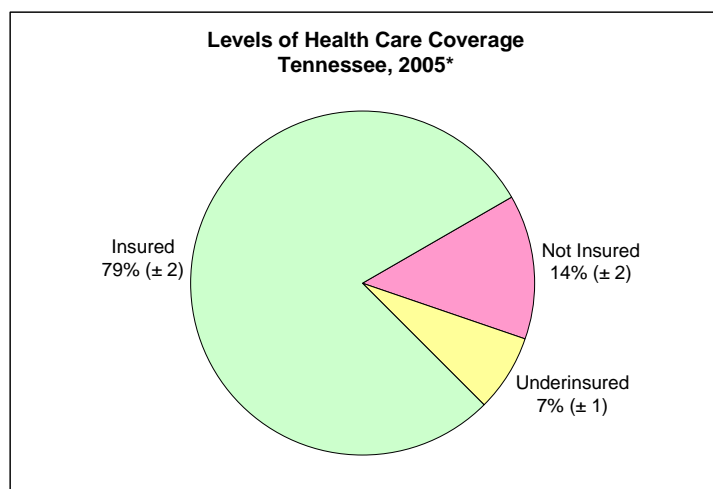
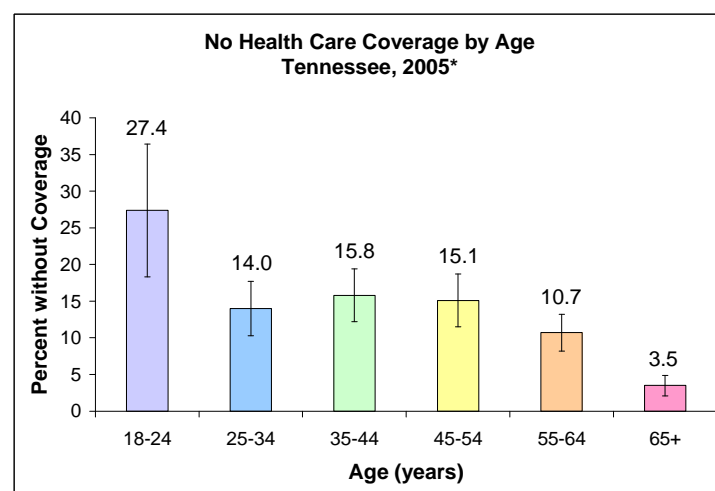
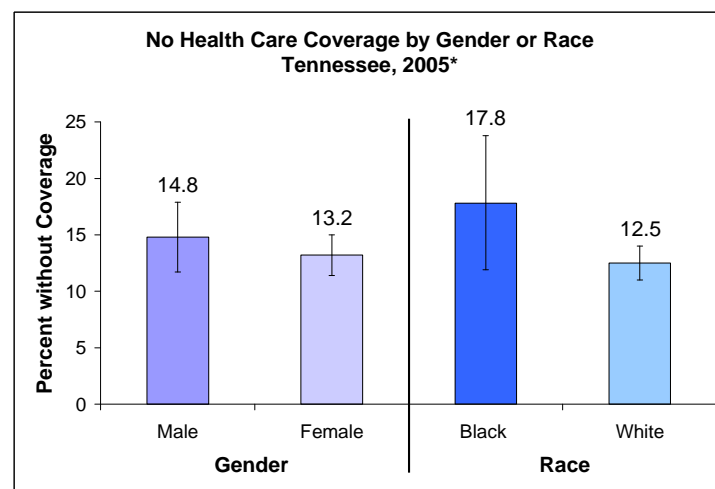
- The percentage of adults without health care coverage decreased with increasing annual household income, from 30.4% among those with an income of \$15,000-24,999 to 1.8% among those with an income of \$75,000 or more. 22.0% of those with an income of less than \$15,000 had no health care coverage.

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- The percentage of adults without health care coverage decreased with increasing education, from 21.3% (± 5.5)* among those with less than a high school education to 6.8% (± 1.8) among college graduates.
- 8.5% (± 1.3) of persons *with* health insurance reported that they were unable to see a doctor within the past 12 months because of cost (i.e. they were *underinsured*). This represents approximately 7.4% (± 1.1) of the total population.
- The percentage of persons reporting a routine medical checkup in the past 12 months was greater for those with health care coverage (79.0% ± 1.9) than for those without health care coverage (60.7% ± 6.5).
- The percentage of persons reporting their health status as fair or poor was similar in those with health care coverage (19.3% ± 1.6) and in those without coverage (20.5% ± 4.6).
- Participants were asked if they were unable to see a doctor during the past 12 months because of cost. Among those who said yes, 33.5% (± 5.4) reported their health status as fair or poor, compared to 17.4% (± 1.4) of those who said no.



*The number above each column indicates the percent value for that column. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals, as do ranges for percentages given in the text.